

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bracket comprising:

5 a plate having a front face, a back face, a length, a width, and opposing side edges extending in respective length and width directions;

 at least two openings in the plate, each opening wholly contained within the front and back faces so as to not intersect with the side edges; and,

10 at least one pair of orifices in the plate, the pair of orifices located adjacent opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate so as to form a weakened zone widthwise for bending the plate along the
15 weakened zone.

2. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the openings extend between the front and back faces so as to form the openings completely through the plate.

20 3. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the orifices extend between the front and back faces so as to form the orifices completely through the plate.

25 4. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the weakened zone is oriented perpendicular to the length direction of the plate.

30 5. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two openings comprise slots.

6. The bracket of claim 5 wherein the slots have a length extending parallel to the length direction of the plate.

7. The bracket of claim 5 wherein the slots are each located along a center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate.
- 5 8. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise notches or holes.
9. The bracket of claim 8 wherein the notches intersect the side edges of the plate along the length of the plate and the notches extend into the plate toward the center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate.
- 10 10. The bracket of claim 8 wherein the notches or holes do not intersect the adjacent opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate and do not intersect at least one of the at least two openings.
- 15 11. The bracket of claim 8 wherein the notches intersect with at least one of the at least two openings.
- 20 12. The bracket of claim 8 wherein the notches have a length extending parallel to the width direction of the plate.
- 25 13. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices are located on opposite sides of at least one of the two openings and midway between opposite ends of the opening.
- 30 14. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise at least four orifices and wherein one pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of one of the at least two openings and midway between opposite ends of the one opening and a second pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of a different opening of the at least

two openings and midway between a first end of the one opening and a second end of the different opening.

15. A bracket for use with a vent and a vent cover
5 comprising:

a plate having a front face, a back face, a length, a width, and opposing side edges extending in respective length and width directions;

10 at least two openings in the plate with the openings extending between the front and back faces so as to form the openings completely through the plate, each opening wholly contained within the front and back faces so as to not intersect with the side edges;

15 at least one pair of orifices in the plate with the orifices extending between the front and back faces so as to form the orifices completely through the plate, the pair of orifices located adjacent opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate so as to form a weakened zone widthwise for bending the plate along the
20 weakened zone; and,

wherein the at least two orifices intersect the side edges of the plate along the length of the plate and the orifices extend into the plate toward a center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate.

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16. The bracket of claim 15 wherein the at least two openings
comprise slots and the slots have a length extending
parallel to the length direction of the plate and each
slot is located along the center axis of the plate
30 relative to the length direction of the plate.

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17. The bracket of claim 15 wherein the orifices comprise
notches and the notches have a length extending parallel
to the width direction of the plate and wherein the
35 notches do not intersect the openings.

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18. The bracket of claim 15 wherein the at least two orifices are located on opposite sides of at least one of the two openings and midway between opposite ends of the opening.

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19. The bracket of claim 15 wherein the at least two orifices comprise at least four orifices and wherein one pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of one of the at least two openings and midway between opposite ends of the one opening and a second pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of a different opening of the at least two openings and midway between a first end of the one opening and a second end of the different opening.

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20. The bracket of claim 15 wherein the openings have a longitudinal orientation and the orifices have a longitudinal orientation and wherein the longitudinal orientation of the openings is perpendicular to the longitudinal orientation of the orifices.

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21. The bracket of claim 1 in combination with a process for using the bracket, the process comprising:

determining a first opening in the plate for securing the bracket to a vent cover;

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determining a second opening in the plate for securing the bracket to a vent; and,

forming the bracket in accordance with the first determining step and the second determining step.

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22. The bracket of claim 21 wherein the process further comprises securing the bracket to the vent cover at the first opening and securing the bracket to the vent at the second opening.

23. The bracket of claim 22 wherein the bracket is secured to the vent at the second opening before the bracket is secured to the vent cover at the first opening.

5 24. The bracket of claim 21 the forming step comprises bending the bracket into its desired shape.